

The Budget—Mr. Comuzzi

the transfer payments pay for post-secondary education, and the very needed health care costs for care that we have come to expect. When funding is reduced in those two vital areas, the health care delivery system is reduced, as is the delivery of post-secondary education.

When we told Canadians that the Government would be forced to harmonize our social programs with those of the United States in the interest of big business, we were accused of lying to the people and using scare tactics. Now that we see the direction the Government is taking in the Budget, who is misleading the Canadian people now?

Some Hon. Members: The Tories!

Mr. Comuzzi: The Budget also points to areas other than social programs where the Government misled the Canadian electorate. The list of broken promises is long. The Government stated that it would not reduce its commitment to regional development. It was cut by \$300 million. It pledged to increase official development assistance by .7 per cent of Gross National Product. That target was reduced to .43 per cent. Farmers were told that the Government would maintain adequate support. Instead, there have been cuts to the farm fuel rebate, crop insurance funding, dairy export subsidies, and Farm Credit Corporation interest-free loans have been eliminated. The Government said it would improve federal housing programs. What has it done? It has cut the Canada Mortgage and Housing Mortgage Residential Rehabilitation Program by \$49 million. It said it would improve women's programs and multicultural programs. It has cut both by \$2 million. The added funding for the CBC announced on January 23, 1988, was reduced by \$45 million. The point is quite clear. The Government has misled the Canadian people.

• (1730)

In summary, I suggest that all Canadians, from northern Ontario, southern Ontario, Victoria to Newfoundland, know that they cannot have their cake and eat it too. Canadians realize that we cannot increase expenditures, cut taxes, reduce the deficit and thereby service the debt.

The purpose of my intervention today is to bring to the attention of Canadians what the Government promised. It promised to sponsor a fully-funded program of day care to the mothers of this country. It promised that

social programs would not be touched. It made a definite commitment to our elders and senior citizens. It made a promise to the working people of Canada that it would not change anything in our unemployment insurance program. It promised not to cut our social or foreign aid.

I am trying to tell the Government that it cannot continue to tell Canadians one thing and do something else, as it has done since it formed the Government in 1988. It is time the Government did something for Canadians. It is time it told Canadians exactly what they can expect for the future of our young people who want to get married, have families, own homes and realize the Canadian dream. The Government must provide a level playing field for all Canadians so that we know where we are going. It can only do this by not misleading us anymore.

Mr. MacDougall: Mr. Speaker, I know that the Hon. Member is new in the House and perhaps did not have an opportunity to review the record of the Government between 1984 and 1988 and what we have been able to do for northern Ontario.

Between 1984 and 1988 this Government introduced a northern tax allowance which many of his constituents are benefiting from. That was not in place prior to 1984. We also brought in a program called Community Futures where individual communities across northern Ontario have the opportunity to enhance their future.

We also brought in procurement which previously did not exist. Companies across northern Ontario had the opportunity to work with the Government in order to procure purchases from the federal Government.

I cannot understand why the Hon. Member would not have congratulated the Government for FEDNOR and the fact that funding for FEDNOR has remained the same. It is people from northern Ontario who are ensuring the opportunities for all of us, whether in small business or large business, or individual tourist operators in northern Ontario.

The Hon. Member talked about softwood lumber. As a good Liberal Member from northern Ontario, perhaps he would not mind talking to the provincial Minister of Natural Resources to encourage him to sit down with our Minister, like other Ministers from other provinces, to negotiate a way to settle this. The provincial Minister has received over \$50 million which has not gone back into reforestation or into the industry. It goes into general revenue funds.